

Acts 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence,

Analysis

Tertullus began with flattery: 'we enjoy great quietness, and very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence.' This rhetorical strategy sought to predispose Felix favorably. 'Providence' (pronoias) attributed divine-like care to a corrupt governor.

Historical Context

Tertullus, a hired Roman orator, followed standard rhetorical conventions. Felix's actual rule was marked by brutality and corruption, making this flattery particularly ironic.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing flattery help discern false accusations?

2. What does Tertullus's rhetoric teach about legal manipulation?

Interlinear Text

κληθέντος	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	ἤρξατο	κατηγορεῖν	ὁ
when he was called forth	And	G846	began	to accuse	G3588
G2564	G1161		G756	G2723	

Τέρτυλλος	λέγων,	Πολλῆς	εἰρήνης	τυγχάνοντες
Tertullus	him saying	great	quietness	we enjoy
G5061	G3004	G4183	G1515	G5177

διὰ	σοῦ	καὶ	κατορθωμάτων	γινομένων	τῷ	ἔθνει
Seeing that by	thee	and	that very worthy deeds	are done	G3588	nation
G1223	G4675	G2532	G2735	G1096		G1484

τούτῳ	διὰ	τῆς	σῆς	προνοίας
unto this	Seeing that by	G3588	thy	providence
G5129	G1223		G4674	G4307

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:28 (Parallel theme): A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.